<u>**IN THE CLAIMS:**</u>

Claims pending

- At time of the action: Claims 1-30.

- After this response: Claims 1-6, 8, 11, 13, 14-20, 22, 25, 26, and 29.

Currently Amended claims Claims 1-6, 8, 9, 11, 13-20, 25, 26, and 29.

Currently Cancelled claims Claims 7, 9, 10, 12, 14, 21, 23, 24, 27, 28, and 30.

New claims None.

1. **(Currently Amended)** <u>One or more computer-readable memory devices comprising computer-executable instructions that, when executed, synchronizes</u> ~~A method for synchronizing~~ a system including <u>a server farm comprising</u> plural <u>application</u> server modules, <u>the synchronizing</u> comprising:

receiving notification information at a first <u>application</u> server <u>module of the server farm</u> regarding a change in the system;

acting on the notification information in the first <u>application</u> server module; and

propagating the notification information from the first <u>application</u> server module to at least a second <u>application</u> server module<u>, wherein both the first application server module and the second application server module are located on a same tier,</u>

wherein the notification information comprises an indication of whether or not at least one application used by the system is available to service user requests.

2.   (**Currently Amended**)   One or more computer-readable memory devices as recited in claim 1 ~~The method according to claim 1~~, wherein the acting on the notification information in the first application server module comprises:

uploading the notification information into at least one application store associated with at least one respective application provided by the first application server module.

3.   (**Currently Amended**)   One or more computer-readable memory devices as recited in claim 1, ~~The method according to claim 1~~, wherein the propagating comprises transferring the notification information using a first queue provided by the first application server module to a second queue provided by the second application server module.

4.   (**Currently Amended**)   One or more computer-readable memory devices as recited in claim 1 further comprising computer-executable instructions that, when executed act ~~The method according to claim 1, further comprising acting~~ on the notification information in the second application server module.

5.   (**Currently Amended**)   One or more computer-readable memory devices as recited in claim 4 ~~The method according to claim 4~~, wherein the acting on the notification information in the second application server module comprises uploading the notification information into at least one application store associated with at least one respective application provided by the second application server module.

6.   (**Currently Amended**) One or more computer-readable memory devices as recited in claim 1 further comprising computer-executable instructions that, when executed repeat ~~The method according to claim 1, further including repeating~~ the propagating for at least one additional application server module in the system.

7.   (**Cancelled**)

8.   (**Currently Amended**) A method for synchronizing a system including plural application server modules, comprising:

Forwarding a first status information reflecting ~~a state~~ whether or not at least one application used by the system is available to service user requests on ~~in~~ a first application server module to a second application server module, wherein both the first application server module and the second application server module are located on a same tier;

merging the first status information with a second status information to produce merged information, a non-duplicative union of the first status information and the second status information, wherein the second status information reflects whether or not at least one application used by the system is available to service user requests on ~~a state of~~ the second application server module~~, to produce merged information~~;

sending the merged information from the second application server module to the first application server module;~~ and~~

acting on the merged information at the first application server module; and

repeating the forwarding, merging, sending and acting for at least one other application server module.

9.   (Cancelled)

10.   (Cancelled)

11.   (**Currently Amended**) The method according to claim 8, wherein the forwarding of the first status information is prompted by the first application server module becoming active after being inactive after having remained inactive for some time.

12.   (Cancelled)

13.   (**Currently Amended**) The method according to claim 8, wherein the acting comprises uploading the merged information into at least one application store associated with at least one respective application provided by the first application server module.

14.   (Cancelled)

15.   (**Currently Amended**) A computer readable-memory device comprising computer-executable instructions that, when executed, implement the method medium including machine readable instructions for implementing the forwarding, merging, sending and acting of claim 8.

16.   (**Currently Amended**)   A method of advising a user of the availability of an application in a system including plural <u>application</u> server modules, comprising:

receiving, at a<u>n application</u> server module in the system, a user's request for an application;

consulting an application store associated with the application to determine whether the application is unavailable, and, if so generating a response; and

forwarding the response to the user <u>in response to the received request,</u> <u>wherein the user to whom the response is forwarded is the user who requested the</u> <u>application,</u> <u>and</u> wherein each of the plural server modules in the system maintains its own respective application store.

17.   (**Currently Amended**)   A computer readable-<u>memory device</u> <u>comprising computer-executable instructions that, when executed, implement the</u> <u>steps</u> ~~medium including machine readable instructions for implementing the~~ ~~receiving, consulting and forwarding~~ of claim 16.

18.   (**Currently Amended**)   <u>One or more computer-readable memory</u> <u>devices comprising computer-executable instructions that, when executed,</u> <u>implements a</u> [[A]] synchronization module ~~implemented~~ on a first server module in a system including plural server modules, <u>the synchronization module</u> comprising:

repeater logic configured to:

receive notification information pertaining to a change in the system;

upload the notification information into at least one application store associated with at least one respective application; and

propagate the notification information from the first server module to at least a second server module,

wherein the notification information uploaded to said at least one application store comprises an indication of whether or not said at least one application is available to service user requests.

19.   (**Currently Amended**) One or more computer-readable memory devices as recited in claim 18 further comprising computer-executable instructions that, when executed, implements ~~The synchronization module according to claim 18, further including~~ a message queue, wherein the repeater logic ~~module~~ is configured to receive the notification information and propagate the notification information using the message queue.

20.   (**Currently Amended**) One or more computer-readable memory devices as recited in claim 18 ~~The synchronization module according to claim 18~~, wherein the synchronization module is configured to propagate the notification information to at least one other server module in the system.

21.   (**Cancelled**)

22.   (**Currently Amended**) One or more computer-readable memory devices comprising computer-executable instructions that, when executed,

synchronize ~~A synchronization module for synchronizing~~ a system including plural server modules, <u>the synchronizing</u> comprising:

merge logic configured to:

forward <u>a</u> first status information reflecting a state in a first server module to a second server module; and

receive merged information from [[the]] <u>a</u> second server module, wherein the merged information reflects a merging of the first status information with <u>a</u> second status information, the second status information reflecting a state of the second server module, <u>wherein the first and the second status information includes notification information regarding a change in the system, the notification information comprising an indication of whether or not at least one application used by the system is available to service user requests</u>; and

a repeater module configured to act on the merged information<u>, wherein the merge logic is configured to repeat the forwarding and receiving for a third server module, wherein when a request by a user to access an application is received by the third server module, wherein the third server module is configured to:</u>

<u>check the forwarded status information; and</u>

<u>when the forwarded status information indicates the application is unavailable, immediately respond to the user who requested to use the application with a response indicating that the application is unavailable.</u>

23.   **(Cancelled)**

24.   **(Cancelled)**

25. **(Currently Amended)** <u>One or more computer-readable memory devices as recited in claim 22</u> ~~The synchronization module according to claim 22~~, wherein the merge logic is configured to send the first status information when the first server module becomes active after have remained inactive for a predetermined time.

26. **(Currently Amended)** <u>One or more computer-readable memory devices as recited in claim 22</u> ~~The synchronization module according to claim 22~~, wherein the repeater module is configured to act on the merged information by uploading the merged information into at least one application store associated with at least one respective application provided by the first server module.

27. **(Cancelled)**

28. **(Cancelled)**

29. **(Currently Amended)** <u>One or more computer-readable memory devices comprising computer executable instructions that, when executed, advise</u> ~~A server module for advising~~ a user of the availability of an application in a system including plural server modules, <u>the advising</u> comprising:

an application store associated with the application;

logic configured to receive, at a first server module in the system, a user's request for an application;

logic configured to consult the application store to determine whether the application is unavailable, and, if so, to generate a response; and

logic configured to forward the response to the user,

wherein each of the plural server modules in the system maintains its own respective application store.

30.   **(Cancelled)**